

THE INKATHA-POLICE SCANDAL

The Inkatha-Police scandal which had captured headlines for some days in the newspapers came as no surprise to most persons who follow events, even though in the most casual manner. Who, except the most naive, believed that Inkatha is a liberation movement; that it was acting independently of the Police and other organs of the State? There are reported incidents, sufficient to fill an encyclopaedia, to show how Inkatha and the Police worked hand-in-hand. Hence, the absence of surprise and the presence of a feeling of satisfaction flowing from confirmation of what people suspected all the time.

The ripples of the exposure of the scandal have not as yet reached the shores of the cesspool. One of the first consequence was the pathetic public performance of Vlok and the Inkatha crowd. Seldom have public figures so completely condemned themselves by their own word and conduct in the eyes of millions of viewers. De Klerk saved the day for the ruling class by demoting (i.e., wrist taps) Vlok and Magnus Malan and by performing certain other conjuring tricks.

The other consequence is that the Pan African Congress (PAC) has been seriously compromised. It is true that its Vice-President, Mr Moseneke, soon after the exposure, had stated that the PAC has ruled out any future contact with Inkatha. But that is like shutting the stable door AFTER the nag has bolted! Prior to this distancing, the PAC had declared Inkatha a liberation organisation; it had sent observers to the Inkatha conference held in July this year and it had planned a full PAC/Inkatha National Executive Council meeting to be held on 15 August 1991.

The ANC has also been flirting with Inkatha.* The reader will recall the exchange of showers of compliments.** So has been the South African Council of Churches and a section of the liberals.

The ordinary person is entitled to ask: All these organisations have many clever people in them. Some have spent almost 30 years in prison; others, while in exile, have collected degrees and professorships. Were these people not aware of the role of Inkatha and its co-option into the State structures? The fact of the matter is that these people were fully

* The exception is that faction of the ANC led by Mr Harry Gwala of Pietermaritzburg

** One particularly heavy compliment by Buthulezi for Jacob Zuma of the ANC apparently seriously damaged Zuma's standing amongst ANC militants.

aware of what Inkatha is . . !! So why all the wheeling and dealing? It is opportunism plain and simple. Principles are cashed for imaginary short term advantages. Integrity is stuffed in the back pocket. Politicking and inelegant manoeuvring has become the order of the day.

The truth about Inkatha has been staring at us in the face for YEARS. And for years there was agreement amongst the various segments of the liberatory movement about the role of Inkatha. Why the change now?

The New Unity Movement is one of the very few organisations which has not been tainted by all these goings-on.

But then our principles have never been put up for sale!!!

GEORGE BUSH – FATHER OF ALL CHILD KILLERS

“In a dingy pediatric ward at Baghdad’s Qadissiya Hospital, Fadhia, 19, stands vigil over a crib where her five-month daughter lies dying of malnutrition. Fadhia has been here before: a month earlier she watched as her three-year old son succumbed to starvation and diarrhea. Now she watches as her little daughter, her face all shrivelled and her body bony, grows smaller every day. The hospital is crammed with such children. But it has no food to save them, and scant medicine.”

This is the heart-rending description of the plight of the Iraqi children given by Nina Burleigh in TIME magazine of 10 June 1991.

The powerful propaganda machine of imperialism and its agents would have the world believe that the war has ended and so has the death toll. Bush’s war on the children has been carefully played down, if not totally suppressed. We do not recall a single South African newspaper, establishment or alternative, report this one-sided war. According to the Iraqi Red Crescent, 80 per cent of all deaths after the ceasefire have been children. Another grim statistic offered by the Harvard Medical Team is that 170 000 Iraqi children will die of gastro-intestinal disease.

Why are the children dying for lack of food? After all, Iraq is a major oil-producing country, earning many millions of dollars. The journalist, Nina Burleigh, has set a number of reasons which we set out below. The reader will readily see that all the causes flow directly from the imperialist-led war against Iraq.